

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
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R 201200Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9207

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2962

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS ON AGREEMENT FOR NEW CSSR AMBASSADOR

REFS: A. PRAGUE 2845

B. PRAGUE 2848

1. IN CASE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WONDERING WHY GOC HAS NOT FOLLOWEDIRP ON DECISION TO NAME JOHANNES AS AMBASSAJTR TO WASHINGTON (REF: PRAGUE 2845), FOLLOWING MAY SHED AT LEAST SOME LIGHT. ON NOV. 11 AT A RECEPTION ZANOTVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT. MFA) APPROACHED POLITICAL COUNSELOR FRISBIE ON SUBJECT, ASKING FRISBIE'S VIEWS ON BEST MODALITY OF ASKING AGREEMENT. DURING VERY SUEFUL VISIT TO PRAGUE OF CZECHOSLOVAK DESK OFFICER KENT BROWN, DURING CALL BY BROWN AND CHARGE ON ZANOTVSKY NOV. 17, ZANOTVSKY WENT OVER SAME GROUND PRAISING JOHANNES AS EXCELLENT CHOICE AND AKSING ABOUT BEST CHANNEL TO SEEK AGREEMENT (THROUGH EMBASSY HERE, FOR CHARGE BUZEK TO REQUEST MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY, OR WHAT). BROWN SAID HE DID NOT THINK DEPARTMENT WAS STICKY ABOUT MODALITIES, ALTHOUGH USUAL MANNER WAS FOR CHARGE TO PRESENT REQUEST TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. WHEN WE OFFERED TO INQUIRE INFORMALLY, ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH DEPUTY FOREING MINISTER SPACIL FIRST. AT LUNCHEON FOR BROWN AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE NOV. 18, ZANOTVSKY SAID THEY HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO BUZEK TO RAISE MATTER WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL.

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2. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT SURE WHY ZANTOVSKY WENT THROUGH THIS CURIOUS PROCEDURE. POSSIBLY THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ARE NERVOUS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A LONG DELAY OR EVEN A REFUSAL OF AGREEMENT FOR JOHANNES. ZANTOVSKY MENTIONED TO BOTH FRISBIE AND BROWN, HOWEVER, HOW IMPORTANT THIS NOMINATION WAS, AND THEREFORE HOW NECESSARY IT WAS TO GO THROUGH AGREEMENT PROCEDURE AT HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. POSSIBLY IT WAS SIMPLY A BRAINSTORM OF ZANTOVSKY'S TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH THE AGREEMENT PROCEDURE, WHICH WAS PUT ASIDE ONCE HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SPACIL. IN ANY EVENT, WE HOPE QUESTION IS RESOLVED AND AGREEMENT REQUEST WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH NORMAL CHANNEL SHORTLY.

PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, AGREEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE02962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750405-0836
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751124/aaaaavij.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 PRAGUE 2845
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSIONS ON AGREEMENT FOR NEW CSSR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, (JOHANNES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006